





P-Patchers celebrate 35 years of harvests!



By Rich McDonald, DON staff

For thirty-five years, P-patch gardeners have shared a tradition of harvest celebration. This year they returned to the site of many past harvest banquets, the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture.

More than 160 P-Patchers turned out to enjoy the view of the sunset against the Cascades, from the Center. They strolled amid the lush demonstration gardens and shared scrumptious food with fellow gardeners from all over the city.

The secret of this success of this annual celebration and what really turns people out is the wonderful potluck bounty spread, featuring 85 homemade dishes prepared by gardeners from many cultures. Department of Neighborhoods Director Stella Chao thanked gardeners for another wonderful year, while P-Patch Trust President Ray Schutte recounted the Trust's invaluable support.

Councilmember Sally Clark and Richard Conlin's staffer Phyllis Shulman both spoke to the enormous value of this program to the City. Department of Neighborhoods staff from the P-Patch and Neighborhood Matching Fund programs also contributed to the event.

Thanks to all who gave time, effort and food to this wonderful event and to 35 years of the P-Patch program!

Looking at 2008: Neighborhood Matching Fund supports environmental projects

By DON staff

Green projects-Neighborhood Matching Funds

2008 is the second year that community members have had the opportunity to apply for Matching Funds to specifically, and creatively, address issues of climate change around Seattle.

So far this year, we've awarded \$83,758 to eight projects garnering a whopping \$123,245 in community match!

Here's what we've funded:

West Seattle Walking Trails, Maps

Feet First spearheaded the development, printing and distribution of maps of walking trails across West Seattle and is working with communities to design and place artistic kiosks and wayfinding signs across SW Seattle.

Imagine Capitol Hill

On July 20, Sustainable Capitol Hill hosted a one-day street fair designed to unite Capitol Hill around local sustainability and environmental issues. Co-located with the Broadway Farmers Market, it spotlighted local businesses, musicians, artists, and educators, and offered residents and the larger Seattle community a chance to engage in interactive, educational activities.

BiRDIE (Bike Rack Design and Implementation Effort)

A community bike rack design contest in Ballard brought in more than 100 entries from people of all ages in Ballard. Five designs will be built in partnership with SDOT by Ballard metalworkers.

Confronting the Food Crisis

A Teach-In is planned, with the theme: "Confronting the Food Crisis: Cultivating Just Alternatives to the Corporate Food System." According to organizers, "The Teach-in, which is supported by a generous grant from the City Department of Neighborhoods, will involve a Friday evening program on December 5 and an all-day event on Saturday, December 6 at Seattle Central Community College. Saturday's program will include three sessions of panels, discussions, and hands-on workshops aimed at helping us to explore two primary themes: (1) Understanding corporate control and (2) Building just alternatives, with respect to local and global food systems. All sessions will have a moderator and will be designed as participatory, community-building events."



West Duwamish Greenbelt Restoration

The Genesee Ravine Action Committee is spearheading an effort to remove invasive vegetation and plant native trees and shrubs in the Genesee ravine, adjacent to Cooper Elementary School. This revitalization will aid in the improvement of the West Duwamish Greenbelt, contributing to the enhancement of adjacent interconnecting trails, while providing environmental education opportunities for community members and local students.

Interbay Sustainability

New gardener-designed signage at Interbay P-Patch will draw attention to all the ways gardeners there have been re-using and re-claiming materials throughout the garden. Their efforts have kept re-usable items from entering the waste stream, preventing the emissions of greenhouse gasses.

Pinehurst Summer Social Event

This August, despite torrential rain, Pinehurst residents made a difference in reducing their impact to global warming. They hosted a neighborhood social event to build community and raise awareness of environmental and climate issues; educating Pinehurst neighbors about lessening their impact on global warming.

Southwest Community Harvest

Based on the model piloted by Solid Ground, Delridgearea residents have been working together to harvest surplus produce from residential trees and gardens and distribute this fresh local, organic produce to food banks, senior centers, and schools in the neighborhood. This group ended up collecting over 2,200 pounds of fruit, is planning to re-apply in 2009 for further Neighborhood Matching Funds and has already been featured in the New York Times. (NY Times, September 13, 2008).

See related story, p. 11

Customer Bill of Rights

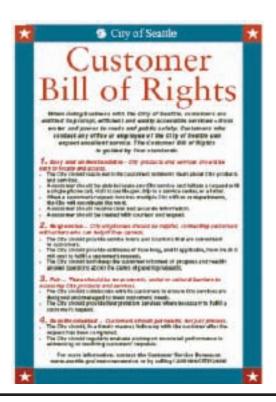
The City of Seattle receives 10 million phone calls and countless other correspondence and visits each year. To serve Seattle residents better, Mayor Nickels and the City's Customer Service Bureau initiated a customer survey last spring. More than 500 people responded.

The result? A Customer Bill of Rights, which is guided by four standards. Highlights include:

Service should be:

- 1 Easy and understandable
- 2. Responsive and timely with service hours and locations that are convenient to customers.
- 3. Fair, including accessible to those of different cultures
- 4. Results-oriented.

For more information, contact the Customer Service Bureau at (206) 684-CITY or visit www.seattle.gov/customerservice



20th Anniversary, Neighborhood Matching Fund



2008 is the 20th anniversary of the Department of Neighborhood's Neighborhood Matching Fund. We held celebrations in September and October at six sites, including an October 11 event at Town Hall that drew 300 people (pictured above). Thanks to all those who turned out to help commemorate the occasion.

There's a lot to look back on and celebrate – 3,500 projects throughout Seattle. These have been so successful, that cities around the globe have replicated our program with their own versions of the Neighborhood Matching Fund. Our City investment of \$42 million has garnered an additional \$65 million of community match in materials, volunteer hours, and community funds. Together, we have worked to make a great city even better. Thank you for your Neighborhood Matching Fund contributions in Seattle - America's most livable city!

Neighbor Appreciation Day: February 7 Art contest now open for entries







Artwork by:

Simon Thai, Asa Mercer 2008 Winner (upper left)

Michelle Pham Dunlap School 2006 Winner (lower left)

Halimo Gado Thurgood Marshall School 2007 Winner (right)

Saturday, February 7, 2009 will mark Seattle's 15th annual celebration of Neighbor Appreciation Day. The celebration began in 1995, when Phinney Ridge activist Judith Wood suggested that the City designate "a special day to celebrate the goodness in those around us and to reach out and strengthen our bonds to each other."

Mayor Norm Rice responded by proclaiming the Saturday before Valentine's Day as Neighbor Appreciation Day. The observance has grown every year since.

Neighbor Appreciation Day is a grassroots celebration. People and organizations throughout Seattle have organized block parties, open houses, award ceremonies, potluck dinners, and work parties to recognize and encourage caring neighbors.

Student Art Contest:

By tradition, we ask Seattle students every year to send us drawings of what they thought it meant to be good neighbors. Some ideas from previous years show neighbors sharing meals, helping with childcare, exchanging plants, or talking over the fence. The artwork has also depicted neighbors working together on a community project, such as building a new playground, painting a mural, or beautifying school or park grounds.

The winner of the contest will receive \$100 and his or her artwork will be featured on Neighbor Appreciation Day cards available throughout the city prior to the day's events. The free greeting cards will be available at City Hall, the 13 Neighborhood Service Centers, community centers and libraries throughout Seattle. Second and third place winners are also recognized. The Mayor hands out the awards with the help of Hon. Sally Clark, Chair of the City Council committee that oversees neighborhoods.

To enter the art contest:

All Seattle students (pre-K through high school) are eligible to enter by submitting 8.5" x 11" work in any medium (magic markers work well). The deadline is December 19.

Send entries to: Art Contest Department of Neighborhoods Seattle Municipal Tower P.O. Box 94649 Seattle, WA 98124-4649

Provide the student's name, age and school (or other Seattle affiliation). Artwork will not be returned unless requested so in writing. In addition to mailing addresses, telephone numbers or e-mail addresses are appreciated.

HAPPENINGS YOUR NEIGHBORHOD

BALLARD

Rob Mattson, 684-4060

CROWN HILL VISION MOVES FORWARD

For years, Crown Hill residents have dreamed of turning the former Crown Hill elementary school into a neighborhood center and park. The site is now occupied by commercial tenants, non-profit agencies, and the Small Faces Child Development Center.

This fall, Seattle Schools and the Crown Hill School Working Group agreed on a price to sell two-thirds of the 3.3 acre site to Small Faces. Planning is underway for a new non-profit corporation to own, or at least manage, the property. Crown Hill neighbors, together with current building tenants, are finalizing details.

It is hoped that the City can buy the remaining land (about one acre) and develop the long-anticipated Crown Hill Park. Approximately \$1 million from the Pro Parks Levy is earmarked for development of the park, which has already gone through the design process.

Several public fund sources are contributing toward development of a new neighborhood center in Crown Hill, including the State of Washington, City of Seattle, and King County.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLANS

Two non-profit housing developers plan affordable housing projects in Ballard. Lutheran Compass Center proposes an affordable 60-unit single adult housing development for property it owns at NW 56th in downtown Ballard. LATCH (Lutheran Alliance to Create Housing) is planning a 48-unit (mostly family housing) development currently occupied in Crown Hill by the Crown Lutheran Church.

These are welcome developments in Ballard which expand the range of housing options and address the fast-disappearing affordable housing opportunities for the local work force.

PUBLIC EYES BURKE GILMAN PLANS

In October nearly 100 citizens attended an Seattle Department of Transportation-sponsored open house to view specific plans for the proposed re-alignment of the Burke Gilman Trail. The proposal would link two existing trails, allowing for a seamless trail from 11th NW (where one trail currently ends) to the Ballard Locks (already linked to Golden Gardens).

CENTRAL

Ted Divina, 233-7257

JOHN JEANNOT MOURNED

Neighborhood activist John Jeannot will be remembered for his commitment to social justice, creative thinking and warm wisdom. The 51-year old lost his battle to cancer in August. Mr. Jeannot served as Squire Park Community Council Chair and Central Area Neighborhood District Council Vice-Chair. He volunteered countless hours to the Chamber of Commerce's Juneteenth event and was supportive to Black Dollar Days activities. Mr. Jeannot supported Casa Latina's move to the Central Area and was a strong believer in race and social justice.

HOUSING BARRIERS FORUM

The Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP) sponsored a forum on housing barriers for low-income families. They decided on a mission: to empower and educate, to help the needy navigate through red tape, to explore a possible resource center and more.

LESCHI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Recently, Leschi Community Council members celebrated 50 years of existence. They agreed to form a committee to document the Council's neighborhood history. Powell Barnett, an African American, originally formed the Leschi Community Council and served as its first Chair. Powell Barnett Park was the site of a 20th anniversary Neighborhood Matching Fund event in October.

CENTRAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Seattle City Councilmembers Bruce Harrell and Sally Clark spoke at a recent meeting of the Central Area Neighborhood District Council

CENTRAL DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction has begun on the new Family Services facility tentatively scheduled for completion in June of 2009.

continued on next page

HAPPENINGS YOUR NEIGHBORHOD

continued from previous page

DELRIDGE

Ron Angeles, 684-7416

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STREET RALLY

Residents, concerned about pedestrian safety, held a "street rally" on the corner of SW Juneau & 35th Ave SW. They held signs asking drivers to slow down and pay attention from 2:30-4 p.m. while children are walking home from school.

ELECTION BALLOT PILOT SUCCESSFUL

An election ballot drop-out pilot at the Delridge Neighborhood Service Center was well-received. Plans are underway for extending the pilot for the next election cycle.

DOWNTOWN

Sara Wysocki, 233-8560

COUNCILMEMBER AT DISTRICT COUNCIL

Seattle Councilmember Nick Licata presented at the Downtown District Council meeting on September 11.

SIDEWALKS IN BELLTOWN

Neighborhood Matching Fund-supported sidewalk improvements are beginning to show on Third Ave in Belltown, made possible by the joint efforts of the City with Belltown Housing and Land Use Subcommittee (BHLUS), and local businesses.

EAST

Jose Cervantes, 684-4574

COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS MEETS WITH BUSINESS LEADERS

King County Councilmember Larry Phillips met with the Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce and the Broadway Business Improvement Association recently. They discussed upcoming construction of the light rail station.

FIRST HILL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

More than 50 residents attended the emergency preparedness "SPLASH" event at the First Hill Presbyterian Church. This event received Department of Neighborhood's Neighborhood Matching Fund - Small Sparks funding and was organized by a newly formed coalition consisting of residents, institutions, businesses and led by volunteers from the Summit at First Hill/Senior Housing. Councilmember Conlin was the guest speaker.

MILLER PARK

The Miller Park Advisory Council has had a positive year with widespread neighborhood participation in programs sponsored by the Miller Park Community Center. The Community Center has seen rental revenues from sports and civic organizations increase.

CAPITOL HILL

The newly created Capitol Hill Community Council would like to hold its regular monthly meetings at Cal Anderson Park. Positive outcomes could include: using members as park volunteers, participation in projects at Cal Anderson Park and recruitment to a proposed park watch program.

GREATER DUWAMISH

Steve Louie, 233-2044

BEACON HILL WALKING TOUR

Beacon Hill businesses are grateful for the Mayor's time walking the business core. He observed growth and listened to concerns including the need for marketing assistance from Sound Transit.

FISHER HOUSE OPENS ON BEACON HILL

The Fisher House, for relatives of ailing veterans staying in the Veterans' Hospital, opened this month. The 16,000 square foot home, located at the VA Hospital, has 21 suites and can host up to 42 family members.

continued on next page

HAPPENINGS YOUR NEIGHBORHOD

continued from previous page

LAKE UNION

Tim Durkan, 684-4054

AURORA BRIDGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The committee overseeing design concepts for a suicide barrier on the Aurora Bridge met to review preliminary concepts. They will preserve the landmark status of the bridge.

SOUTH LAKE UNION

The Lake Union Opportunity Alliance held its first public meeting to discuss the upcoming Environmental Impact Statement process. More than 40 people attended the meeting ,which was well organized by the group headed by John Pehrson, formerly of the Belltown Community Council. City officials outlined the process and assured attendees that the process would be an inclusive one.

MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE

Christa Dumpys, 684-4812

QUEEN ANNE AND MAGNOLIA OUTREACH

The Emergency Preparedness Committee in Queen Anne and Magnolia is continuing outreach in the district to community groups. Earlier this fall, they made a presentation to the Queen Anne Community Council and shared their Disaster Response Plan (DRP). The DRP includes the development of neighborhood communication hubs to be utilized in the event of an emergency.

The committee has also begun collaborating with the West Seattle and Wallingford neighborhoods, sharing information and resources related to emergency preparedness.

FORT LAWTON

After holding public hearings in late summer and early fall, the Seattle City Council agreed unanimously to send plans to the federal government for redeveloping the Fort Lawton Army Reserve Center. Plans call for 216 homes - a mix of market rate and homeless housing.

NORTH

Ed Pottharst, 684-7526

LIHI BREAKS GROUND IN LAKE CITY

On October 2, the Low Income Housing Institute held a ground-breaking for its new building, which will provide 75 units of permanent housing for people, including veterans, who have been homeless. It will also be the new location for the North Helpline Food Bank and Emergency Services and RotaCare medical and dental facility.

FEDERAL GRANT AWARDED FOR HOUSING

The federal Housing and Urban Development awarded Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) a \$10,486,839 grant to support the redevelopment of Lake City Village. SHA plans to construct 51 public housing rental units; 35 affordable rental units; five affordable homeownership units; 12 market-rate homes, and a community center.

NORTHGATE COMMUNITY CENTER

The 4th annual Northgate Family Festival was a big success. The festival featured a kids' area, dancing pigs and other entertainment, arts and crafts, a car show, and a health and fitness fair. Community groups, such as the Northgate Idris Mosque, had booths.

NORTHEAST

Karen Ko, 233-3732

NE DISTRICT COUNCIL

At the September meeting of the NE District Council, Councilmember Rasmussen discussed the Seattle Park Department's proposals for Magnuson Park.

OVER 1,000 VISIT U DISTRICT FOOD BANK

For the first time in its 25 year history, the University District Food Bank counted over 1,000 families coming through its doors the week of October 12. Fortunately the Food Bank's annual auction had a strong turnout.

continued on next page

HAPPENINGS YOUR NEIGHBORHOD

continued from previous page

NORTHWEST

Beth Pflug, 684-4096

GREENWOOD PARK(ING) DAY

The Greater Greenwood Bi/Ped Safety Coalition sponsored Park(ing) Day in Greenwood at two sites: the Greenwood Library (where a garden patio lounge was set up for gathering and voter registration) and the recently re-opened Pig N Whistle, where volunteers created a bicycle park(ing) oasis.

BREAKFAST AT GREENWOOD BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

A breakfast open house was held at the North Seattle (Greenwood) Boys & Girls Club, October 17 to introduce new Executive Director Guy Williams (formerly of the City of Seattle's Human Services Department) and to re-create a community support network for the newly remodeled facility. The Northwest District Coordinator, Greenwood Community Council President Kate Martin (who helped organize the event); incoming Greenwood-Phinney Chamber President Steve Giliberto; Mark Blumenthal, President of the Aurora Avenue Merchants Association; Gary Brunt of Greenwood Shopping Center, Inc. and City Councilmember Nick Licata attended.

FALL CRIME PREVENTION KICK-OFF

GAIN, North Greenwood sponsored a Fall Crime Prevention Kick-off at the Music Center of the Northwest (in the Oak Lake Baptist Church). The event featured Councilmember Tim Burgess and representatives from the Seattle Police Department. The GAIN North group was recently awarded Small Sparks funds for a banner to be used during its monthly community clean-up events and community walks.

SOUTHEAST

Yun Pitre, 386-1924

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Southeast District Council held an event at NewHolly focusing on transit development and neighborhood planning around light rail stations.

RAIN-KING BUSINESSES PREPARE

In September, Rain-King businesses located in the Central Area met to discuss and plan for neighborhood preparedness including conducting a door-to-door questionnaire about the skill sets of the businesses, emergency supply inventory, and special needs assessment. The group looked at areas of improvement, such as encouraging employees to have a family preparedness plan and identifying local businesses with medical equipment.

SOUTHWEST

Stan Lock, 684-7495

VIADUCT FEATURED AT JOINT DISTRICT COUNCIL

State, County and City transportation officials were the featured speakers at a joint meeting of the Southwest/Delridge District Council at the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center.

STATUE OF LIBERTY PLAZA DEDICATION

The dedication ceremony for the new Statue of Liberty Plaza took place on September 6. Councilmember Tom Rasmussen, Parks and Recreation staff, along with Statue of Liberty Plaza Project Committee Co-Chairs Paul and Libby Carr kicked off the day-long festivities. The Statue of Liberty is back on Alki Beach on a new pedestal. The Parks Department is selling bricks until December 31, 2008 for installation in 2009. See www.sealady.org for more information.

WEST SEATTLE TRANSPORTATION FORUM

The West Seattle Chamber of Commerce and West Seattle Herald sponsored a West Seattle Transportation Forum at West Seattle High School. A second forum is planned for the first guarter of 2009.

LICATA, CRUNICAN ATTEND SOUTHWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Seattle City Councilmember Nick Licata and Seattle Transportation Director Grace Crunican spoke about the Mercer Project at the Southwest District Council.

Digital television is coming in 2009! Be prepared!

On February 18, 2009, television stations will stop broadcasting in analog and will move to all digital TV. Television sets that use "rabbit ears" or other antennas will not receive a signal unless they have a digital converter box. Viewers who subscribe to cable or satellite service, or who have a digital TV, won't see any change in their TV reception.

If you don't know whether your TV is analog or digital, find your TV registration number and check with the manufacturer. If you will need a digital converter box for your TV, you may apply to the federal Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program to help with the cost.

Up to two \$40 coupons per household are available. (Converter boxes are expected to cost between \$50 and \$70 each.) To get your converter box coupons, do one of three things between today and March 31, 2009:

- Call 1-888-388-2009 (1-888-DTV-2009)
- Get online information from the federal government at www.dtv2009.gov
- Request a coupon(s) by writing to DTV Coupons, P.O.
 Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208



Converter boxes should be available in "big box" retailers, chain electronic stores, and national discount stores. A list of eligible converters, participating retailers and online vendors will be sent with the coupons. The coupon is good only for a digital converter box. It is not good for a digital video recorder (dvr) or digital television.

*If you do not have a computer, there are computers with Internet available for your use at Neighborhood Service Centers, City of Seattle libraries, community centers, and some non profit agencies in the community. To find your nearest community computer, please call Vicky Yuki, Department of Information Technology, at 206-233-7877.

Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee

By DON staff

On September 22, 2008, the Seattle City Council passed a resolution to create a 24-member Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee (NPAC). NPAC membership included 13 representatives from each District Council, the Chair of the City Neighborhood Council Neighborhood Planning Committee, two members from the Seattle Planning Commission and eight members from the community at large (the Executive and the Council to appoint four each).

At the time of this writing, all of the Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee members have been identified except the eight appointees from the community at large.

The Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee will serve as an advisory body to the City as the process for updating Neighborhood Plans is developed.

The first charge of the NPAC will be to advise the City in assembling Neighborhood Plan Status Reports. The

Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee will make recommendations and provide on-going guidance to the City.

All Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee meetings will be announced on the Neighborhood Plan Website and are open to the public.

The first Neighborhood Planning Adisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center (Multipurpose Room), located at 104 - 17th Avenue South (East Yesler Way and 17th Avenue South).

For more information on the Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee and its scope of work, please visit http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/

If you have additional questions, you may contact Sebhat Tenna at the Department of Neighborhoods, by calling (206) 733-9977. You may also reach Sebhat by e-mail at: sebhat.tenna@seattle.com.

Greening Seattle: Tree Plantings

By DON staff

With the help of scores of volunteers, the Emerald City was made 400 trees greener. In November, 27 neighborhood groups throughout Seattle planted free trees provided through the Department of Neighborhood's Tree Fund. These projects were a collaborative effort between the Seattle Department of Transportation, the Department of Neighborhoods and neighborhood groups throughout the city and demonstrated continuing public/private partnerships that increase the tree canopy in our urban environment while strengthening neighborly relationships. The Tree Fund is a great way to get to know your neighbors and to build community.

In return for free trees, neighbors attend a training led by the City Arborist's office where they learn how to fulfill their obligation to plant and maintain their new trees. Employing a peer-to-peer education model, representatives from each group are required to attend the training and share the information with their neighbors. Typically, neighbors organize a tree planting party and all the free trees are planted at once. That way, everyone gets to learn how to properly plant and gets the help they need to plant their tree.

Since 1972, Seattle's tree cover has shrunk from about 40 percent of the City's land area to just 18 percent today. This decline threatens nature's ability to help manage storm water, reduce erosion, absorb climate-disrupting gasses, and clean the air. Mayor Nickels has



set an ambitious goal of increasing Seattle's tree canopy by two-thirds over the next 30 years by planting about 650,000 trees.

The Tree Fund, a part of the Neighborhood Matching Fund, is currently in its 13th year and has provided more than 19,000 trees for neighborhood tree planting projects. For more information about any of this year's 27 projects or to request information about how you can apply to the Tree Fund, call the Department of Neighborhoods at 206-684-0464.

Election pilot

The 2008 elections are now history. The Department of Neighborhoods was pleased to assist in the collection of votes for the record turn-out.

DON teamed up with King County Elections to collect ballots for the November 4 General Election at two sites. The Delridge and University Neighborhood Service Centers (NSC) were designated as ballot drop off locations. These convenient locations provided absentee voters with a new way to securely return their ballots, without the cost of postage.

Based on the number of ballots received at these two NSCs, the pilot was a success and the project will be expanded to include additional NSC locations for future 'vote by mail' elections.

Seattle Climate Action



Still to come:

Matching Fund/Climate Action Now events

December 2008

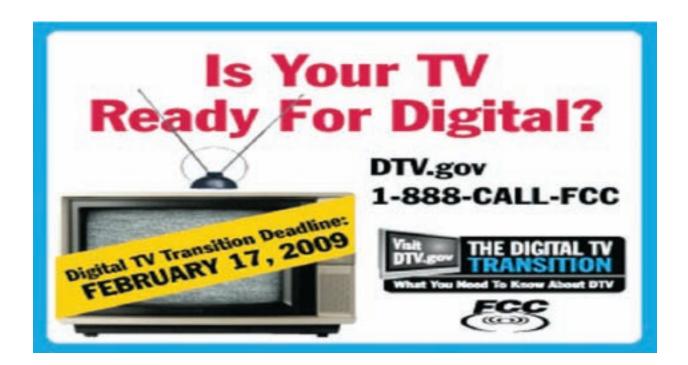
Friday and Saturday, December 5-6, 2008 Seattle Central Community College Confronting the Food Crisis: Cultivating Just Alternatives to the Corporate Food System

January 2009

Check out the new signage at Interbay P-Patch!

March-April 2009

West Duwamish Greenbelt Restoration work parties





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